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PART II. MOSSES WITH HAND-LENS AND MICROSCOPE.

J. FRANKLIN COLLINS.

The second part of Dr. Grout's new book is a pamphlet of about the same size as, and a continuation of, Part I. It completes the family *Dicranaceæ* with keys and descriptions of thirty-two species and several varieties, and includes the genera *Ceratodon*, *Salania*, *Trematodon*, *Dicranella*, *Blindia*, *Dicranodotium*, *Dicranum* and *Leucobryum*. The *Grimmiaceæ* comprises the genera *Hedwigia* and *Ptychomitrium*, each with a single species, *Grimmia*, with ten species and a few varieties, and *Rhacomitrium* with six species. *Ephemeraceæ* includes the small genera *Nanomitrium*, *Ephemerum*, *Acaulon* and *Physcomitrella*. The remaining two-fifths of Part II comprises the family *Tortulaceæ*. Under this topic about thirty species and several varieties of the genera *Phascum*, *Astomum*, *Weisia*, *Gymnostomum*, *Didymodon*, *Barbula*, *Trichostomum*, *Tortella*, *Pottia*, *Pterygoneurum*, *Aloina*, *Desmatodon* and *Tortula* are described. Both the text and the copious illustrations are of the same high grade as in Part I. (See THE BRYOLOGIST, 6:104.)

In botanical works which particularly aim to instruct, interest and maintain the interest of the novice illustrations have long played an important part. Unfortunately for the beginner these illustrations are sometimes far from being above criticism as regards accuracy, and at times are positively misleading, as many an older student may personally recollect. In reproducing so many of his illustrations from the *Bryologia Europaea* and Sullivan's *Icones*—the two great illustrated bryological works of Europe and America respectively—Dr. Grout has left few, if any, openings for criticism of this nature.

It is undoubtedly impossible to mechanically reproduce a plate and have it equal to the original. As a test of the quality of the plates in Part II the reviewer has made a careful comparison with the original of each plate illustrating *Dicranaceæ* which has been reproduced from the *Bryologia*, the *Icones* or *Limpricht*. When placed side by side a difference is at once detected, yet a difference which in no way involves the question of inaccuracy or carelessness. We see prints from carefully made, full-sized, photographically reproduced plates of the originals. For all ordinary working purposes the beginner (and most others) will find them as useful as the originals and far less expensive.

Some of the moss names will not be wholly approved by certain bryologists but as this involves largely a question of personal conviction or opinion, and in no way impairs the value of the work, it would be out of place to discuss them here. The accented technical names will be greatly appreciated by most beginners. No student of mosses within the Gray's Manual region should be without "Mosses with Hand-Lens and Microscope."

Providence, R. I.